

A full-page photograph of baseball player Jeff Bagwell in a batting stance. He is wearing a white Houston Astros uniform with blue pinstripes, a blue helmet, and black batting gloves. His name 'BAGWELL' is visible on the back of his jersey. He is holding a bat and is in the middle of a swing. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators in a stadium.

THE HOUSTON ATHLETIC COMMITTEE PRESENTS
**THE 1995 HOUSTON
BASEBALL DINNER**

Jeff Bagwell

1994 Astro MVP,
1994 National League MVP
1994 Sporting News Major
League Player of Year

**Friday, February 3, 1995
Westin Galleria Hotel**

**Co-sponsored by
Astro Orbiters**



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JEFF BAGWELL

As fans sat in the stands and punched their ballots for the National League's starting lineup in last year's All-Star Game, Jeff Bagwell received about the same amount of respect as an old hot-dog wrapper or empty beer can.

In many ways, the Astros first baseman's lack of notoriety shouldn't have come as much of a surprise. The Astros haven't had a position player voted in the starting lineup of an All-Star Game since 1973, the longest current drought of any major-league team.

But there are signs that Bagwell is, indeed, starting to become a household name. After setting club records with 39 home runs and 116 RBI and hitting .368 during last year's strike-shortened season, Bagwell's mantel has been decorated with more awards in a single season than any player in franchise history.

One of a record-setting five Astros named to the 1994 NL All-Star team, Bagwell also joined second baseman Craig Biggio as the Astros' first Gold Glove winners for fielding excellence since 1976. Tonight, Bagwell will be presented with three other awards in recognition of his superlative 1994 season.

- *The Astros' Most Valuable Player Award.* This is the third time in four seasons Bagwell has received this honor. Only José Cruz, who played for the Astros for parts of 13 seasons, won this award four times.
- *The NL Most Valuable Player Award.* Bagwell was a unanimous selection, and the first player in club history to win this award, presented annually by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.
- *The Sporting News Major League Player of the Year.* Now in its second century of publication, The Sporting News selected Bagwell as the best player in either league, another franchise first.

It's easy to understand why Bagwell has received this unprecedented level of notoriety. He is a quiet leader, one whose focused dedication and natural ability have combined to provide the Astros with arguably the best position player in the franchise's 34-year history.

Cesar Cedeño might have had more speed. Jimmy Wynn - another of tonight's honorees - and Glenn Davis might have hit for more power. Bob Watson, now the Astros' general manager and one of tonight's speakers, might have been a more productive hitter in clutch situations.

Doug Rader and Bill Doran might have been better fielders, although Doran never won the Gold Glove he deserved. Joe Morgan, now a member of Baseball's Hall of Fame, might have displayed more leadership ability over a longer period. Rusty Staub might have hit for a higher average, although Bagwell's .368 would have eclipsed Staub's single season club batting record by 35 points had the strike-shortened season not prevented Bagwell from earning the necessary 502 plate appearances.

But Bagwell was the complete package in 1994, a yardstick by which all other major-league players were measured. To ensure the fact he remains in an Astros' uniform for years to come, the club recently signed him to a \$47 million contract.

Please join us tonight in toasting Jeff Bagwell's 1994 season.

THE 1995 HOUSTON



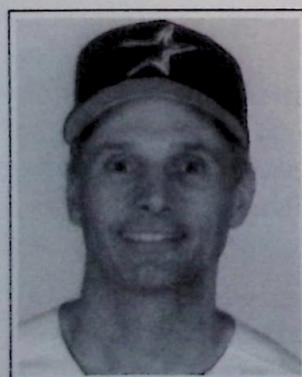
Milo Hamilton



Drayton McLane, Jr.



Bob Watson



Terry Collins

ORDER OF PROGRAM

Invocation -

Rev. Drew Garner

National Anthem -

Shavonne Conroy

Take Me Out To The Ballgame, America The Beautiful

Joe Prince

Welcome -

Charles L. "Sonny" Sowell

Master of Ceremonies -

Milo Hamilton

ENJOY YOUR DINNER

Faces in the Crowd -

Milo Hamilton

All-Greater Houston Area Preseason High School Baseball Team -

Milo Hamilton

Jeff Austin	P	Kingwood
Bubba Crosby	OF	Bellaire
Will Ford	OF	Elsik
Tim Goss	SS	Deer Park
Royce Huffman	1B	Elkins
Michael Marriott	P	Spring
John Scheschuk	1B	Dobie
Daniel Schwartz	P	Westbury
Damon Thames	SS	Humble
Michael Trozzo	SS	Stratford

Selection Committee Chairman

Steve Maas, Deer Park HS

BASEBALL DINNER

General Remarks -

Allen Russell, Ivy McLemore

Astro Orbiters Award to Jimmy Wynn -

Jo Anne Hanzelka

Fred Hartman Award to Billy Joe Bowman-

Bill Hartman

Houston Area Major League Player of the Year - Chuck Knoblauch

Giff Nielsen

1994 Astro Rookie of Year - John Hudek

Craig Roberts

1994 Most Valuable Astro - Jeff Bagwell

Jimmy Wynn

1994 National League MVP - Jeff Bagwell

Ivy McLemore

1994 Sporting News Major League Player of Year - Jeff Bagwell

John Rawlings

The 1995 Houston Astros - Manager's View -

Terry Collins

The 1995 Houston Astros - General Manager's view -

Bob Watson

The 1995 Houston Astros - An Owner's View -

Drayton McLane, Jr.

Closing Remarks and Drawing for Autographed Baseballs -

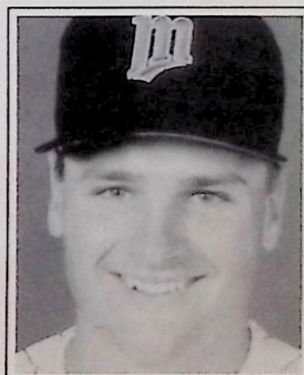
Charles L. "Sonny" Sowell



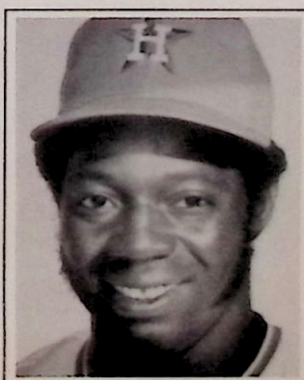
John Hudek



Billy Joe Bowman



Chuck Knoblauch



Jimmy Wynn



BASEBALL DINNER TABLE SPONSORS

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BASEBALL DINNER HISTORY

Houston's first Baseball Dinner was held in 1947 at the Rice Hotel Ballroom. The event was sponsored by the Houston Chamber Commerce Athletic Committee and the Houston Buff Booster Committee. Allen Russell was chairman. The dinner continued annually until 1952, when Russell bought the Beaumont franchise in the Texas League.

After Houston was granted a National League expansion franchise to begin play in 1962, the Baseball Dinner was held on an occasional basis. The current sponsors of the Houston Baseball Dinner revived the event in 1986 with the help of co-founders Charles L. "Sonny" Sowell, Allen Russell, Clark Nealon and Ivy McLemore and the cooperation of the Houston Astros. The event has featured such headliners as Peter Ueberroth, Nolan Ryan, Joe Morgan, Roger Clemens, Mike Scott, and Drayton McLane, Jr., and has been a sellout every year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Like most baseball games, winning is a team effort. Tonight's 10th annual Houston Baseball Dinner is no exception. Here are the "players" who deserve thanks.

Jo Russell for all of the hours handling ticket orders.

Jackie Nealon for her outstanding contributions.

John Cook and his Greeting Committee.

Rob Matwick and the Astros' Media Relations staff.

The Astro Orbiters Booster Club.

Natalie Harris for her outstanding contributions.

Drayton McLane, Jr., Bob Watson, Terry Collins of the Houston Astros.

Jane Herring and the staff of the Westin Galleria Hotel.

Adie Marks and Irv Kauffman of Sachnowitz and Co. for designing the program.

The Houston Chronicle for printing this program.

All the members of the Houston Athletic Committee.

Shavonne Conroy and Joe Prince for the songs.

Co-Chairman Allen Russell, A Great Job.

Drew Garner for the invocation.

All of the table sponsors and the many fans present here tonight.

And sincere apologies to anyone we may have omitted.

-Ivy McLemore, *General Chairman*

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